



## History Day FAQs

**Rules Questions (always check your contest rule book to make sure you have followed all of the rules for your category!)**

1. With our performance projects, can we have props? **Yes, in the performance category, props are part of your project. Just remember that sometimes, simple is better.**
2. I have been telling my students that five sources (primary and secondary) are a good start to a paper. Do the judges like to see a specific number and would it be better to have more primary or secondary? **There is no magic number of sources. That's where you as the teacher come in. The requirements for a sixth grade teacher should be different from an 11th grade honors teacher. Also, some students will have more, smaller sources while others will have fewer, better sources. A general rule is quality over quantity.**
3. I thought projects had to be about topics at least 25 years old. There was a winning project on 9/11. **There is no official rule as to "how old" a project needs to be. However, it does need to be historical and not a current event. Enough time must have passed for historians to evaluate the event, so that we can understand the historical significance. With a topic like 9/11 you can use your judgment on if there has been a measurable impact, depending on the approach you choose.**
4. Can I appear in my documentary as narrator? **There is no rule that says the narrator cannot appear on camera. However, you cannot appear in costume and you cannot reenact a scene. If that is your interest, you may consider a performance instead. Additionally, while it is not against the rules to appear on camera you should remember that part of a documentary is telling the story using images, video, and sound primary sources, as well as to show your technology capabilities. If you are appearing instead of the sources, this does not necessarily showcase those things.**
5. If I found a quote on a quote website and how would I cite it. This quote was not made by the author of the website but like Thomas Jefferson would I cite this as a website and if so would it only count as one source if I used 2 quotes? **I would encourage you to find the original source of the quotes - go directly to Jefferson's writings. You have no proof that a quote website is accurate, and when you go to the original source, you often find other good quotes and ideas to help you.**
6. Can I dress up in costume for my exhibit, website, paper, documentary? **No, only those competing in the performance category should be in any kind of costume.**



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## Student Questions

1. Can I make changes to my project before the state/national contest? **Certainly! That's what the judges' comments are for.**
2. How many projects can go to the national contest? **The top two projects from each division/category/type qualify for nationals (i.e. The top two Jr. Individual Exhibits). Alternates are chosen in the event that one of the top two cannot attend, but we do not announce alternates at the State Awards Ceremony.**
3. Do I need to bring a laptop for websites/documentaries? **We are asking schools to bring at least one device for use between their students as we cannot guarantee equipment at each contest, nor can we guarantee that it would work properly. For documentaries, make sure your project will play on the majority of computers (PC/Mac) and bring a copy of your dvd or flash drive that you can leave with the judges. You will receive it back if you need it.**
4. Should I email or mail the state coordinator a copy of my paper for the judges? **Email is the preferred way. Please send your cover page, paper, and annotations as one PDF document. If you have to send it as a Word document please still submit your cover page, paper, and annotated bibliography all as one document (i.e., do not send three separate attachments for each part of your submission). If you need to mail your paper please have it to the state office at least 7 days before your scheduled contest. The address is "KJHS, 100 W. Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601".**
5. How many copies of my process paper/bibliography do I need to bring? **At least two copies: One for each judge. (Websites, yours need to be included in the website).**
6. What is the dress code? **No formal dress code, but we recommend business casual. No holes.**

## Contest Questions



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1. If my group member is not there can I still be judged? **Yes. But, if you are doing a performance, keep in mind that a missing member could affect the quality of your performance.**
2. When can I pick up my exhibit board? **After judging is completed for everyone, before the awards ceremony begins, or after the awards ceremony ends.**
3. Do I have to stick around for the awards ceremony? **Nope. You are free to go after you are judged.**
4. Should I be nervous? **Nope, the judges aren't there to scare you. Have fun! Watch a documentary or performance. Support your friends!**
5. How many projects from each category advance to the state contest? **For district contests: The top projects from each category/division will advance. This number can vary depending on the number of projects a category has, but generally, we advance the top 1/3 of projects in each category. For the state contest: The top two projects from each category/division advances.**
6. What time do I have to be there? **Registration for all district contests is from 8:30am-9:30am. Registration for the state contest is 8:00am-9:00am.**
7. What if I can't be there until our assigned judging time? **Please let me know as soon as you possibly can if you cannot make it during the registration time.**
8. When will I get the judges' evaluation forms? **All evaluation forms will be mailed to teachers the Tuesday following your contest.**

### Parent Questions

1. Can I watch judging? **Only for documentaries, performances, and websites. Judges are allowed to ask audience members to leave before they begin the interview. Only the student(s) and judges are allowed to speak during the process. There will be a time for exhibit viewing after judging is concluded.**
2. If my child does not stay for the awards ceremony how do we find out results? **I email each teacher the week following the contest to let them know all results in the event people have to leave before the awards ceremony. Teachers will also receive a packet with all the student evaluation sheets.**